

“EXHIBIT A”

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

|                               |   |                     |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| EDGAR SOLIS,                  | ) | CASE NO.            |
|                               | ) | 23-cv-00515-HDV-JPR |
| Plaintiff,                    | ) |                     |
|                               | ) |                     |
| vs.                           | ) |                     |
|                               | ) |                     |
| COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE; STATE OF | ) |                     |
| CALIFORNIA; SALVADOR          | ) |                     |
| WALTERMIRE; MICHAEL BELL, AND | ) |                     |
| DOES 1-10, inclusive,         | ) |                     |
|                               | ) |                     |
| Defendants.                   | ) |                     |
| _____                         | ) |                     |

DEPOSITION OF OFFICER MICHAEL BELL  
APPEARING REMOTELY FROM SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024

REPORTED BY:

JOHANNA MANGUAL LEDESMA, RPR, CSR 6951

APPEARING REMOTELY FROM VENTURA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

**Page 2**

1 REMOTE VIDEO CONFERENCE DEPOSITION OF OFFICER MICHAEL  
2 BELL, TAKEN PURSUANT TO NOTICE ON BEHALF OF THE PLAINTIFF,  
3 ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024, AT 12:34 P.M., SAN DIEGO,  
4 CALIFORNIA, BY JOHANNA MANGUAL LEDESMA, CERTIFIED  
5 SHORTHAND REPORTER NO. 6951.

6

7

8 REMOTE APPEARANCES

9

10 FOR THE PLAINTIFF:

11 LAW OFFICES OF DALE K. GALIPO  
12 BY: MARCEL F. SINCICH, ATTORNEY AT LAW  
13 21800 BURBANK BOULEVARD, SUITE 310  
14 WOODLAND HILLS, CALIFORNIA 91367  
15 (818) 347-333  
16 msincich@galipolaw.com

17 FOR THE DEFENDANT STATE OF CALIFORNIA (BY AND THROUGH THE  
18 CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL):

19 ROB BONTA, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CALIFORNIA  
20 BY: DAVID KLEHM, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL  
21 600 WEST BROADWAY, SUITE 1800  
22 SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101  
23 (619) 738-9733  
24 david.klehm@doj.ca.gov  
25

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

**Page 3**

1 I N D E X

2

3 WITNESS EXAMINATION BY PAGE

4 OFFICER M. BELL MR. SINCICH 5

5

6

7

8

9

10 E X H I B I T S

11 NUMBER/LETTER DESCRIPTION PAGE

12 EXHIBIT 1 PHOTOGRAPH OF BLACK  
FORD EXPLORER 112

13 EXHIBIT 2 PHOTOGRAPH OF OFFICER BELL 112

14 EXHIBIT 3 PHOTOGRAPH OF FIREARM 114

15 EXHIBIT 4 PHOTOGRAPHS OF INCIDENT  
16 LOCATION 116

17

18

19

20 INSTRUCTION NOT TO ANSWER:

21 PAGE LINE  
27 1

22

23

24

25

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

Page 4

1 REPORTED REMOTELY FROM VENTURA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

2 WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024, 12:34 P.M.

3 000

4

5 THE REPORTER: Good afternoon. My name is  
6 Johanna Ledesma. I am the California Certified Shorthand  
7 Reporter. My CSR number is 6951.

8 We are here for the deposition of Michael Bell  
9 in the matter of Solis versus the County of Riverside, et  
10 al. All parties are appearing remotely via the Zoom  
11 platform.

12 And, Mr. Bell, would you please raise your right  
13 hand and be sworn?

14 (Whereupon the witness was administered the  
15 oath.)

16 THE WITNESS: I do.

17 THE REPORTER: Thank you.

18 Mr. Sincich?

19 MR. SINCICH: Thank you.

20

21 OFFICER MICHAEL BELL,  
22 having been first duly sworn,  
23 was examined and testified as follows:

24 ///

25 ///

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

Page 5

1 EXAMINATION

2 BY MR. SINCICH:

3 Q. Can you please state and spell your name for the  
4 record?

5 A. It's Michael Bell, M-I-C-H-A-E-L B-E-L-L.

6 Q. Have you had your deposition taken before?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. How many times?

9 A. Two times.

10 Q. Were those in one case or two different cases?

11 A. Two.

12 Q. Were those cases related to your work in law  
13 enforcement?

14 A. One was.

15 Q. What was the general circumstances of the one  
16 that was related to law enforcement?

17 A. It was regarding a lawsuit against my  
18 department.

19 Q. Did it have to do with the use of force or  
20 detention of a person?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Were you involved in using force or detention  
23 against the person in that case?

24 A. I did not use force in that case.

25 Q. Were you a witness officer then?

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

**Page 13**

1 long as he can hear you. It might unfreeze. If it  
2 doesn't unfreeze or so, we can log out and log back in.

3 But can you hear his audio okay?

4 MR. SINCICH: I can hear the audio okay. I just  
5 want to make sure our court reporter, because like last  
6 time, sometimes they are kind of reading lips as they  
7 type.

8 Do you want to try to turn your video off and on  
9 real quick to see if that works?

10 MR. KLEHM: Hit it again. We've got a spinning  
11 blue circle to try to turn it off so --

12 MR. SINCICH: Okay. Let's -- I can hear you  
13 okay. So if -- if our court reporter is good, then we can  
14 carry on.

15 And I see a head nod, so I'm going to keep  
16 going.

17 MR. KLEHM: Can you repeat the question, sir?

18 MR. SINCICH: Yes.

19 Actually, can you read back the last question  
20 before we discuss that? Thanks.

21 (Record read.)

22 THE WITNESS: That would be another approximate,  
23 so approximately three to five seconds.

24 Q. BY MR. SINCICH: Okay. Did you have an  
25 understanding that when you were using your firearm, that

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

Page 14

1 it could cause death or serious bodily injured?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Generally speaking, when you were firing, were  
4 you aiming your weapon?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Did you intentionally pull the trigger each  
7 time?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Did you intend that each time that you pulled  
10 the trigger, that that bullet would strike Mr. Solis?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Prior to firing your first shot, did you hear  
13 any other shots being fired?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Is it fair to say that Mr. Solis never fired a  
16 weapon at you?

17 MR. KLEHM: Objection. Calls for speculation.  
18 Lacks foundation.

19 THE WITNESS: No.

20 Q. BY MR. SINCICH: Did you form the impression  
21 that Mr. Solis fired a weapon at you?

22 A. It's simply probable in my opinion.

23 Q. Okay. Did you ever see him pull the trigger of  
24 a gun?

25 A. No.



**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

Page 15

1 Q. Did you ever hear the sound of a gunshot coming  
2 from his direction?

3 MR. KLEHM: Objection. Argumentative. Calls  
4 for speculation. Lacks foundation.

5 THE WITNESS: No.

6 Q. BY MR. SINCICH: Did you hear or see the impact  
7 of a round anywhere near your body?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Were you injured at all during the incident?

10 A. No.

11 Q. And your video cleared up by the way just to let  
12 you know.

13 A. Yeah, I restarted it.

14 Q. Okay. Great.

15 Prior to the incident, had you dealt with high  
16 risk individuals before?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Did you encounter people who had a gun in their  
19 hand?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Approximately how many times?

22 A. Approximate, well, I'd say more than six.

23 Q. In those six occasions, were any of the subjects  
24 felons with a violent history?

25 MR. KLEHM: It's vague and ambiguous. Do you

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

Page 16

1 mean if he knew at the time that he was interacting with  
2 them or that he found out later?

3 MR. SINCICH: Let's just say in general.

4 MR. KLEHM: Okay.

5 THE WITNESS: What do you mean in general? Can  
6 you just --

7 Q. BY MR. SINCICH: Meaning whether you knew at the  
8 time or you found out later.

9 A. Take me some time to recall these incidents and  
10 think of them individually, but there were -- there were  
11 individuals that had felonies, but I wouldn't be able  
12 to -- I don't know. I don't recall off the top of my head  
13 that information.

14 Q. Of the six individuals that you saw with a gun  
15 in their hand prior to this incident, do you recall  
16 knowing at the time that they had a gun in their hand, if  
17 they were felons?

18 MR. KLEHM: Do you understand that question?

19 THE WITNESS: I don't recall the timing of it,  
20 of my knowledge.

21 Q. BY MR. SINCICH: Did you use deadly force in any  
22 of those instances?

23 A. No.

24 Q. In your experience prior to this incident, did  
25 you encounter persons who fled from the police either in a

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.  
Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

Page 18

1 in their hand in certain circumstances.

2 Q. BY MR. SINCICH: Right. And my question is just  
3 a little bit different. Just based off that fact alone,  
4 the subject has a gun in their hand, are officers allowed  
5 to use deadly force according to their training?

6 MR. KLEHM: Same objections. Calls for  
7 speculation. Incomplete hypothetical. Lacks foundation.  
8 Argumentative.

9 You can answer if you understand.

10 THE WITNESS: I guess my answer would be the  
11 same that I just said. I have to know more of the  
12 situation and take -- it's guessing here. You're asking  
13 me to guess in a circumstance that I don't have all of the  
14 information over this, so I can't say for that  
15 application.

16 Q. BY MR. SINCICH: All right. In this scenario,  
17 there's no other information. There's merely a subject  
18 standing before you with a gun in their hand. That  
19 information alone, are officers allowed to use deadly  
20 force according to their training?

21 MR. KLEHM: Objection. Incomplete hypothetical.  
22 Lacks foundation. Calls for speculation. Argumentative.

23 You can answer if you understand.

24 THE WITNESS: No.

25 Q. BY MR. SINCICH: Is it fair to say that based on

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.  
Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

Page 19

1 your training, officers should not use deadly force merely  
2 because the subject is fleeing?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. Were you ever trained that if you see a person  
5 with a gun in their hand, that you're allowed to use  
6 deadly force?

7 MR. KLEHM: Same objections. Incomplete  
8 hypothetical. Lacks foundation. Calls for speculation.  
9 Argumentative.

10 THE WITNESS: That would be very similar to the  
11 last question. Without any other information per, in that  
12 scenario, somebody just shooting somebody because they  
13 have a gun in their hand is no. That's my answer.

14 Q. BY MR. SINCICH: Thank you.

15 Other than this incident, have you ever been in  
16 any other officer involved shooting?

17 A. Not where I was the shooter.

18 Q. Okay. Is it fair to say that during this  
19 incident, you didn't know what Mr. Solis was thinking?

20 MR. KLEHM: I'm sorry. What he was thinking?

21 MR. SINCICH: Thinking.

22 MR. KLEHM: Thinking.

23 THE WITNESS: That's correct.

24 Q. BY MR. SINCICH: Did you review any documents in  
25 preparation for today?

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

Page 20

1 A. No.

2 Q. Have you ever reviewed any documents related to  
3 this incident?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. What documents have you reviewed?

6 A. I've reviewed a portion of what's called a CIIT  
7 report. I have reviewed my testimony for my statement for  
8 the day of the shooting or what happened on the day of the  
9 shooting. I have --

10 MR. KLEHM: Anything else, anything that was  
11 discussed with counsel is privileged, so you don't have to  
12 talk about anything that I've read to you --

13 THE WITNESS: Oh, okay.

14 MR. KLEHM: -- or things like that.

15 THE WITNESS: Okay. I was notified about some  
16 paperwork regarding the findings. I believe it's from my  
17 department and from the D.A.'s office if I'm correct.  
18 Could be wrong. Just that I -- I guess that I was --  
19 yeah, yeah, that.

20 Q. BY MR. SINCICH: Okay. Anything else?  
21 Documents that you reviewed?

22 A. It don't recall.

23 Q. Okay. When was the last time you reviewed the  
24 CIIT report?

25 MR. KLEHM: Objection. He never said he

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

Page 43

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Did you have a supervisor that you reported to  
3 at C.H.P. as well?

4 A. No, not for day-to-day work.

5 Q. Okay. Now prior to the incident, my  
6 understanding is that you got a call regarding a suspected  
7 kidnapping vehicle?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And you essentially got prepared and went into  
10 the stealth vehicle with Detective Sobaszek to respond to  
11 that call?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. All right. When you were en route to that call,  
14 is that when you remembered something that drew your  
15 attention to this incident?

16 MR. KLEHM: I'm sorry. Counsel, two questions  
17 ago, you said prior to the incident. And now you're  
18 saying is there something that drew your attention to the  
19 incident? So it seems like you're using a term, incident,  
20 different ways. So if you can just be more clear as to  
21 what you mean by incident in your current question, that  
22 would be great.

23 Q. BY MR. SINCICH: That's fair enough.

24 When you were en route to this unrelated call,  
25 is that when you learned information that eventually

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

Page 44

1 brought you to the scene of this incident?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. My understanding is that you were checking  
4 e-mails or something to that effect?

5 A. I don't recall how the information came.

6 Q. Okay. Essentially you learned that the other  
7 call, they had sufficient units?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And around that time frame, is that when you  
10 received the BOLO related to Mr. Solis?

11 A. No. I had seen the BOLO prior to leaving the  
12 office.

13 Q. Okay. Did you do any kind of research on  
14 Mr. Solis prior to leaving the office?

15 A. I learned that he had several felony warrants  
16 for, one for a car jacking crime and then one for a  
17 robbery. I can't remember what the other incidents were  
18 for. I believe that he's considered dangerous, possibly  
19 armed, and that he was driving like a lime green colored  
20 Mustang. And then I was able to see his picture on the  
21 BOLO.

22 Q. Did you know anything else about Mr. Solis at  
23 that time?

24 A. Not that I recall.

25 Q. Did you talk to your partner about Mr. Solis at

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

Page 45

1 all prior to the shots being fired?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Did you learn any additional information about  
4 Mr. Solis from your partner?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Then essentially the two of you talk about the  
7 information that was on the BOLO flier?

8 A. No. I guess there's some confusion with your  
9 question here, with what I'm saying. So I had to talk to  
10 him about Solis during the dealings with Edgar Solis, when  
11 we were, when the incident was taking place, not  
12 necessarily talking about his history or things about him.

13 Q. Okay. What did you say to your partner about  
14 Mr. Solis?

15 MR. KLEHM: And this is before any shots were  
16 fired, correct?

17 Q. BY MR. SINCICH: I would say to narrow the  
18 field, from the time you received the Polo, excuse me,  
19 received the BOLO to the time you exited your vehicle.

20 A. Oh, nothing that I recall.

21 Q. In between that time frame, did your partner say  
22 anything to you about Mr. Solis?

23 A. I don't recall.

24 Q. I recall in your statement saying something  
25 that, you saying something that your partner thought he



**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

Page 46

1 knew where Mr. Solis might be.

2 Do you recall that?

3 A. I think there was discussion of where he could  
4 be heading or a direction, but nothing about Mr. Solis  
5 that I recall.

6 Q. Sorry. Go ahead.

7 A. So not that I recall anymore than that.

8 Q. Did you learn anything about the location that  
9 he might be headed?

10 A. Somehow I was under the impression that he could  
11 be in our area by whatever information we had received  
12 from a Flock camera. And that my partner, my partner or  
13 someone thought he might be heading in a certain  
14 direction.

15 Q. Did your partner say why he might be headed in  
16 that direction?

17 A. No, not that I recall.

18 Q. Okay. And prior to the day of the incident, had  
19 you ever met Mr. Solis before?

20 A. It's possible, but I don't recall.

21 Q. Is it fair to say that at the time that you used  
22 deadly force, you don't recall ever meeting Mr. Solis  
23 before?

24 A. Yes, I don't recall.

25 Q. What I mean is at the time you used deadly

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

Page 47

1 force, that you didn't recall meeting Mr. Solis before?

2 A. That's what I'm saying. Yes, I don't recall  
3 ever meeting him before.

4 Q. Okay. Did you have any information about the  
5 neighborhood where the incident took place?

6 A. Nothing specific.

7 Q. It's a residential neighborhood, right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And they're generally mobile homes?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Had you ever had any calls in that area before?

12 A. Not that I recall in those specific streets.

13 Q. Did you have any specific information about  
14 whether or not Mr. Solis had ever used drugs or alcohol  
15 prior to the incident?

16 A. I recall some information possibly associated  
17 with that BOLO that he had a drug charge or something or  
18 some charge associated with drugs, but nothing beyond  
19 that.

20 Q. Did you have any specific information as to  
21 whether or not Mr. Solis was under the influence of drugs  
22 or alcohol at the time?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Did you have any specific information that  
25 Mr. Solis had ever physically harmed anyone?

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

Page 48

1 A. Just the charges against him for the warrant  
2 that I spoke of.

3 Q. What specific information did you have about  
4 harm that he caused to someone physically?

5 A. Just the nature of the crimes. Carjacking and  
6 robbery are typically considered violent crimes.

7 Q. Do you know if anyone got hurt during any of  
8 those crimes?

9 MR. KLEHM: Objection. Calls for speculation.  
10 Lacks foundation.

11 THE WITNESS: I don't have any details regarding  
12 his other cases.

13 Q. BY MR. SINCICH: Okay. On the day of the  
14 incident, did you have any information that anyone was  
15 harmed by Mr. Solis that day?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Did you have any information that Mr. Solis had  
18 verbally threatened anyone that day?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Can you describe what he was wearing?

21 A. No, I don't recall exactly what he was wearing.

22 Q. Was there anything remarkable about what he was  
23 wearing that informed on your analysis of him?

24 A. Not that I recall.

25 Q. What did you believe his height to be when you

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

Page 49

1 saw him?

2 MR. KLEHM: Vague as to time. At what point in  
3 time?

4 THE WITNESS: I didn't think of his height when  
5 I saw him. I never, didn't cross my mind.

6 Q. BY MR. SINCICH: But you saw Mr. Solis at one  
7 point outside of the vehicle, right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What would you give as an estimate of his  
10 height?

11 A. Approximately 5' 9".

12 Q. And what is his approximate weight?

13 A. Appeared to be over 200 pounds.

14 Q. What was his age to your understanding?

15 A. I don't recall.

16 Q. From seeing him, what did you understand his age  
17 to be approximately?

18 MR. KLEHM: It's vague and ambiguous as to when  
19 you're talking about seeing him. You mean after he was  
20 shot up and was in a pool of blood or while he was fleeing  
21 on foot? At what point?

22 Q. BY MR. SINCICH: I don't know if those are going  
23 to change the age that you would estimate, but on the day  
24 of the incident, what age would you estimate he was from  
25 your interaction with him on the day of the incident?

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

Page 79

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. No.

3 Q. Did you see any civilians inside the house, a  
4 house, for instance, through an open door or window?

5 A. I don't remember what time it was, but I saw an  
6 occupant inside the house on, that we had entered where  
7 the shooting took place. I believe it was a female.

8 Q. Where were you when you saw the female in the  
9 house?

10 A. I would be on the north east side of the house  
11 and I had seen her at some point. And I don't know. I  
12 don't recall what time she opened the door of where, of,  
13 of the side of the house where Edgar Solis ended up being  
14 handcuffed.

15 Q. And that was after Deputy Waltermire's shots,  
16 right?

17 A. I believe so. I'm not sure though.

18 Q. Did you see her at all prior to your first shot?

19 A. I don't recall.

20 Q. Mr. Solis, I understand, went through a swinging  
21 gate in order to get to the backyard?

22 A. I recall.

23 Q. Was that gate closed?

24 A. I believe so.

25 Q. After he went through the gate, did it close

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

Page 80

1 behind him?

2 A. I think it was swinging still, but I -- and  
3 tried to close and open back up or something along those  
4 lines.

5 Q. At the time that Mr. Solis reached the gate, how  
6 far away from him were you?

7 A. Approximately 30 feet.

8 Q. Were you within the carport area of the house at  
9 that time?

10 A. Approximately.

11 Q. What did you see Mr. Solis do next?

12 A. He went through the gate. There was another  
13 fence inside of that gate. It's like chain-link with  
14 slats through the chain-link. And he turned with the gun  
15 pointing my direction facing me as he kneeled down behind  
16 that, behind that second gate, that second fence.

17 Q. Is it your testimony that Mr. Solis pointed the  
18 gun at you?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. When he was behind the fence?

21 A. Against --

22 MR. KLEHM: Misstates his testimony.

23 Q. BY MR. SINCICH: Did Mr. Solis ever shoot the  
24 gun at you?

25 MR. KLEHM: It calls for speculation. Lacks

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

Page 81

1 foundation.

2 THE WITNESS: It's probable.

3 Q. BY MR. SINCICH: What do you mean by that?

4 A. Well, I -- I wouldn't be able to see because --  
5 it's hard. It would be hard for me to know if he shot the  
6 weapon for several reasons.

7 Q. What reasons?

8 A. One of which is when he's behind cover or  
9 something's covering the weapon when he fires, I wouldn't  
10 see a flash. I have something, I believe it's called  
11 auditory exclusion, so when I shoot or shooting's  
12 happening, I don't necessarily hear the sounds of my  
13 firearm going off let alone somebody else's. So I  
14 wouldn't hear, hear the shot. And then he, he had a  
15 revolver which doesn't eject spent cartridges.

16 Q. Who told you that you have auditory exclusion?

17 A. I know it.

18 Q. You don't have auditory exclusion?

19 A. I know that I have it.

20 Q. How do you know that?

21 A. Because I don't hear. I didn't hear my  
22 gunshots.

23 Q. You didn't hear your own gunshots?

24 A. Yes. I have no recollection of hearing my own  
25 gunshots.

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.  
Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

Page 82

1 Q. When you say that you wouldn't be able to see a  
2 muzzle flash of his gun, why is that?

3 A. I'm saying it's possible that I would not be  
4 able to see a flash if it was, if his gun was behind cover  
5 when he fired at me.

6 Q. When Mr. Solis was behind the gate -- strike  
7 that.

8 The gate was a plastic white gate, correct?

9 MR. KLEHM: Objection. Misstates his testimony.

10 THE WITNESS: I don't remember any plastic and I  
11 don't remember the color.

12 Q. BY MR. SINCICH: Okay. Maybe I'll show a  
13 picture later on.

14 The fence itself, that's a metal fence, right?

15 A. The chain-link fence from what I recall.

16 Q. Yes, the chain-link fence.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And it had privacy slats kind of weaved through  
19 the chain-links?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And you said that that created concealment for  
22 Mr. Solis?

23 A. Yes, partially.

24 Q. And you believe that he ducked behind, ducked  
25 down after he went behind the fence, right?



**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

**Page 83**

1           A.       I saw him duck down after he turned and pointed  
2     the weapon at me, he ducked down behind the fence and I  
3     could still see his shape through the slats that he, where  
4     he was at.

5           Q.       Are you saying that he pointed the gun at you  
6     before he went behind the fence?

7           A.       No.

8           Q.       So was he already behind the fence when he  
9     pointed the gun at you?

10          A.       The fence isn't full height, so if I had to  
11     approximate, 3 to 4, 3 to 4 feet above the ground so he  
12     would be above the fence. Then he ducked down underneath  
13     it.

14          Q.       So he went behind the fence. And how much of  
15     his body were you able to see above the fence?

16          A.       I would say most of his upper body.

17          Q.       From his waist up?

18          A.       It would be approximate. Yes, around there.

19          Q.       What hand was the gun in when he pointed it at  
20     you at that point?

21          A.       I don't recall.

22          Q.       Was his arm stretched out with the gun in his  
23     hand in a shooting position?

24                 MR. KLEHM: Objection. Argumentative.

25                 THE WITNESS: A shooting position doesn't

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

Page 84

1 necessarily mean your arm's stretched out, but the gun was  
2 in his hands pointed towards me, both hands.

3 Q. BY MR. SINCICH: Demonstrate what you mean.

4 A. (Indicating.)

5 Q. So what I'm seeing is your hands collapsed  
6 together in a two-hand position. Is that correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Your arms were bent at about 90 degrees?

9 A. They're bent.

10 Q. Was it a bend about 90 degrees that you  
11 demonstrated?

12 A. Yeah, approximately 90 degrees.

13 Q. And your hands were some 10 inches away from  
14 your torso area?

15 A. Approximately 10 to 12 inches.

16 Q. Okay. And you're saying that the gun, because  
17 of the height of the fence, would have been above the  
18 fence?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. So wouldn't you be able to see the muzzle flash  
21 if he fired at that time?

22 A. Yes. If he fired while he was above the fence,  
23 yes.

24 Q. Okay. And did he fire the weapon at you at that  
25 time?

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

Page 85

1 A. I didn't see him fire the weapon.

2 Q. Did you hear him fire the weapon?

3 A. I didn't hear my weapon or his weapon.

4 Q. How long after you saw Mr. Solis point the gun  
5 at you did you fire your first shot?

6 A. Immediately.

7 Q. When you say immediately, do you mean one  
8 second, half a second, 5 seconds?

9 A. I would approximate within a second.

10 Q. Okay. Where were you when you fired your first  
11 shot?

12 A. I believe I was just inside of the gate going  
13 from the front yard to the backyard.

14 Q. How far were you from Mr. Solis?

15 A. Maybe 12, 12 feet approximately.

16 Q. When you fired your first shot, was Mr. Solis  
17 still standing in the position you saw him previously in  
18 that you just demonstrated?

19 MR. KLEHM: Objection. Vague and ambiguous.  
20 You said he was standing.

21 THE WITNESS: You have to tell me what you meant  
22 or what position were you referring to.

23 Q. BY MR. SINCICH: You demonstrated the position  
24 of Mr. Solis. Do you recall that?

25 A. Yes.

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

Page 86

1 Q. And he was standing in what you demonstrated,  
2 right?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Was he still in that position when you fired  
5 your first shot?

6 A. He was moving, but pretty basically in that  
7 position, moving, squatting down, going from that position  
8 to a squatting position.

9 Q. Okay. Was he moving other than just lowering  
10 his body?

11 A. Yes. He was trying to get away.

12 Q. Which direction was he going?

13 A. He was going, trying to go towards the north.  
14 Northeast is where his momentum was going or let's see  
15 here. Sorry. He's basically going around the back of the  
16 house towards the north side of the house is where his  
17 momentum continued to go.

18 Q. And is that generally away from your direction?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Did you think Mr. Solis was moving backwards?

21 A. I don't recall.

22 Q. Did you see Mr. Solis side pedaling?

23 A. I know he was moving in a direction and trying  
24 to stay concealed after trying to shoot me basically,  
25 trying to shoot me.

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

**Page 89**

1           A.       From what I recall, he was on the north side of  
2     the home heading towards, from the backyard towards the  
3     front area direction. And he was approximately 15, 15 to  
4     20 feet away approximately.

5           **Q.       Where were you?**

6           A.       I would be close to the back corner of the house  
7     on the north side.

8           **Q.       Kind of in the area where the pool was?**

9           A.       Yes, just not behind the house. I was, I was  
10    using the, coming around the corner towards the side of  
11    the house.

12          **Q.       Were you moving during your shots in your second**  
13    **volley?**

14          A.       I don't recall.

15          **Q.       Did you have cover during your second volley?**

16          A.       No.

17          **Q.       Did you attempt to achieve cover prior to firing**  
18    **your second volley of shots?**

19          A.       Yes. I was trying to.

20          **Q.       Where?**

21          A.       Just we call it slicing the pie, around the  
22    corner of the house, but the house is more concealment  
23    than cover. So I was hoping that there would be something  
24    in the wall of the corner to help stop a bullet come my  
25    direction, but --

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

Page 90

1 Q. Sorry. Go ahead.

2 A. -- but I eventually had to move away from the  
3 house to keep visual on Solis because there was furniture  
4 on the side of the house.

5 Q. What do you mean the house is more concealment  
6 than cover?

7 A. Bullets go straight through houses of walls.  
8 It's common.

9 Q. You'd describe them as paper thin, right?

10 A. Well it depends what type of wall, but these  
11 houses, these mobile homes have thin walls.

12 Q. Is it your understanding that shots you fired  
13 went through walls of houses?

14 MR. KLEHM: Objection. Incomplete hypothetical.  
15 Lacks foundation. Calls for speculation.

16 THE WITNESS: I'm not aware of that.

17 Q. BY MR. SINCICH: Prior to firing your second  
18 volley of shots, what did you see Mr. Solis doing?

19 A. He was still holding the gun. I don't recall  
20 which hand it was in.

21 Q. What was he doing?

22 A. He was in a swinging motion turning towards my  
23 direction with the gun again.

24 Q. Turning to his left or right?

25 A. I feel like it was his left, but I don't recall

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

Page 91

1 specifically.

2 Q. During your first volley of shots, where were  
3 you aiming?

4 A. I would say that, I guess the center mass area.

5 Q. Center mass of what?

6 A. Solis.

7 Q. What part of Mr. Solis' body?

8 A. The center of his mass. It's the center of him.

9 Q. I see your hands moving around your chest and  
10 stomach. Is that what you just demonstrated?

11 A. Oh, the part of the body? Yes, it's typically  
12 towards the chest area.

13 Q. During your first volley of shots, was  
14 Mr. Solis' chest area exposed to you during all of the  
15 shots?

16 A. I knew where, I knew where his chest was. Yes,  
17 I was aiming at his chest.

18 Q. Was his shoulder square with you during each of  
19 your three approximate shots in the first volley?

20 A. He was moving. I don't recall his specific  
21 positions.

22 Q. So when you fired your first shot, were you  
23 aiming at his chest?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And when you fired your second shot, where were

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

Page 92

1 you aiming?

2 A. The center mass area.

3 Q. If that bullet impacted exactly where you were  
4 aiming, what would it strike on his body?

5 A. The chest.

6 Q. And when you fired your third shot, what were  
7 you aiming for?

8 A. The same, the chest.

9 Q. And during this time frame, Mr. Solis was still  
10 fleeing from you around the north side of the house  
11 towards the north side of the house?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And he was on the other side of the chain-link  
14 fence with the privacy slats?

15 A. At what time?

16 Q. When you fired your first volley of shots.

17 A. His feet were behind the fence, yes.

18 Q. And portions of his body as well?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. While you were firing, was he trying to keep a  
21 lower profile as he moved away from you?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Was he essentially bent over at the waist?

24 A. At times.

25 Q. And I'm specifically referring to while you were



**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

Page 93

1 firing your first volley of shots.

2 A. Yes. So it's hard for me to continue explaining  
3 this any differently, but he was moving so he was in  
4 different positions while I was firing.

5 Q. Okay. Do you know where -- strike that.

6 Do you know if any of your shots in the first  
7 volley struck Mr. Solis?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Do you know if any of your shots in the second  
10 volley struck Mr. Solis?

11 A. I just assumed, but no.

12 Q. Where did you assume you struck Mr. Solis in the  
13 second volley?

14 A. I don't know where he was struck. I assume that  
15 he was hit.

16 Q. Why did you assume that he was hit?

17 A. Because he had a response where he dropped to  
18 the ground.

19 Q. While you were in the backyard prior to firing  
20 your first shot all the way up to your last shot, did  
21 Mr. Solis say anything to you?

22 A. I don't recall him saying anything or hearing  
23 anything.

24 MR. KLEHM: Counsel, we've been going for an  
25 hour.

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

Page 94

1 MR. SINCICH: I'm going to take a break in a  
2 minute. I'm going to take a break in just a minute.

3 Q. BY MR. SINCICH: After Mr. Solis went to the  
4 ground, what did he do after that?

5 A. I couldn't see him. He was behind furniture at  
6 the, at the door that leads into the house.

7 Q. Did you see him actually hit the ground at all?

8 A. I just saw him disappear from my field-of-view.

9 Q. Did you see him crawl while he was on the ground  
10 at all?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Okay. During your second volley of shots, where  
13 were you aiming?

14 A. Same, center mass.

15 Q. Center mass of what part of Mr. Solis' body?

16 A. Center of him, his chest.

17 Q. Were you able to see Mr. Solis' chest during the  
18 second volley of shots?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Were you able to see his chest during all  
21 approximately three of your second volley of shots?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And during your second volley of shots,  
24 Mr. Solis was still running away from you?

25 MR. KLEHM: Objection. Misstates his testimony.

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

Page 98

1 that he turned towards me with it --

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. -- pointing at me.

4 You're talking about the first volley incident?

5 Q. Yes. Did you see Mr. Solis ever run towards any  
6 officer?

7 A. Run towards an officer?

8 Q. Yes.

9 A. He was going towards the same direction that  
10 Deputy Waltermire was going towards. They were going  
11 towards each other at the time of the last volley.

12 Q. Did you know where Deputy Waltermire was when  
13 you were firing your second volley?

14 A. I don't remember what time exactly, during that  
15 volley or right after, but I noticed, I noticed Waltermire  
16 was coming in my direction. I think it was right after.

17 Q. Okay. So did you know that Deputy Waltermire  
18 was going to come through that gate prior to firing your  
19 second volley?

20 A. I don't. I don't believe so.

21 Q. At that point in time, is it fair to say that  
22 Mr. Solis wasn't trying to run towards Deputy Waltermire?

23 A. That's fair.

24 Q. And Mr. Solis never tried to run towards you,  
25 right?

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

Page 99

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. Did you ever see Mr. Solis attempt to take a  
3 hostage?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Did you ever see Mr. Solis physically harm  
6 anyone during the incident?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Did you ever see Mr. Solis attempt to punch,  
9 kick or grab anybody during the incident?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Did you ever see Mr. Solis attempt to open a  
12 window to any home?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Did you ever see him attempt to enter a home  
15 through a window?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Did you ever see him attempt to open a door to  
18 any home?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Did you ever see him try to go through the door  
21 to any home during the incident?

22 A. Not that I recall.

23 Q. Is it fair to say that Mr. Solis was in the  
24 vicinity of at least three homes during the incident?

25 A. Yes, that's fair.

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

Page 100

1 Q. And out of all those three homes, he never tried  
2 to go through any door or window?

3 A. As far as I can recall.

4 Q. Is it fair to say that Mr. Solis never had his  
5 hand under the towel while he was in the green car?

6 A. I can't, I can't say that. I didn't see him put  
7 his hand under the towel as far as I know.

8 Q. Okay. And prior to your second volley of shots,  
9 is it fair to say that Mr. Solis did not point the gun at  
10 you?

11 A. The gun was not pointed at me before the second  
12 volley, correct. Actually if -- before the second volley,  
13 but after the first volley.

14 Q. Correct.  
15 You received training on the concept of deadly  
16 force?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Is it fair to say that deadly force should only  
19 be used when necessary in defense of life?

20 A. I'd say it's fair that deadly force be used when  
21 there's fear, intent and ability. That's what I'm trade  
22 on.

23 Q. Is that sometimes called the deadly force  
24 triangle?

25 A. I don't recall that statement.

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

Page 101

1 Q. Is it your understanding that the fear that an  
2 officer has must be objectively reasonable?

3 MR. KLEHM: Objection. Calls for a legal  
4 conclusion.

5 THE WITNESS: I'm not sure what it's classified  
6 as.

7 Q. BY MR. SINCICH: When an officer has a fear that  
8 he's using to justify the use of deadly force, were you  
9 ever trained that that fear must be objectively  
10 reasonable?

11 A. I was trained that it must be reasonable, yes.

12 Q. Were you ever trained on the concept of  
13 objective reasonableness when it comes to using deadly  
14 force?

15 A. I know what objective reasonableness is, yes,  
16 but outside objectively, that everybody is in agreement  
17 that it's reasonable.

18 Q. Is part of the training that officers should use  
19 the least intrusive method if possible to take a person  
20 into custody?

21 MR. KLEHM: Objection. Incomplete hypothetical.  
22 You can still answer.

23 THE WITNESS: To use the least amount of force  
24 necessary to effect the arrest.

25 Q. BY MR. SINCICH: When using deadly force, are

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

Page 120

1 A. I don't recall.

2 Q. What distance did he cover during your second  
3 volley approximately?

4 A. Approximately 8 feet.

5 Q. Approximately where was he in this image if you  
6 know approximately when you first started firing your  
7 second volley?

8 A. I believe he was close to that round table from  
9 what I recall.

10 Q. Okay. And then he went down after your second  
11 volley of shots?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Okay. Let me just look at my notes really  
14 quickly here.

15 I'm just going to do those four exhibits right  
16 now. I don't have any further questions at this time.

17 MR. SINCICH: Counsel, do you have anything?

18 MR. KLEHM: No, I do not.

19 MR. SINCICH: Ms. Ledesma, do you have any  
20 additional spellings or order that you want to take?

21 THE REPORTER: No additional spellings.

22 But, Mr. Klehm, did you want a copy?

23 MR. KLEHM: Yes, please, and expedited, please,  
24 or rough.

25 THE REPORTER: A rough or an expedite or both?

**EDGAR SOLIS vs COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, ET AL.**  
**Officer Michael Bell on 05/08/2024**

**Page 121**

1 MR. KLEHM: How long would it take to get an

2 expedite?

3 THE REPORTER: Can we go off the record?

4 MR. SINCICH: Off the record.

5 (WHEREUPON THE DEPOSITION WAS CONCLUDED AT

6 4:08 P.M.)

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25